

***Consumer Reports Poll Finds 72 Percent of Americans "Extremely or Very Concerned" About the Potential for Antibiotic Overuse to Create Superbugs***

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, renewed her call to limit the overuse of antibiotics in farm animals after Consumer Reports released a new poll today finding that 72 percent of Americans were "extremely or very concerned" about the potential to create antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

The report, titled ["Meat On Drugs: The Overuse of Antibiotics in Food Animals and What Supermarkets and Consumers Can Do to Stop It,"](#) also found that 86 percent of consumers indicated that meat raised without antibiotics should be available in their local supermarket.

"The vast majority of Americans are concerned about the effect antibiotic overuse on farm animals is having on their health, and rightly so," said Slaughter. "Unfortunately too many of our institutions, from the federal government to big business, have ignored this issue. But they won't be able to ignore us for much longer because, as this poll shows, more and more Americans are waking up to the dangers posed by the daily feeding of antibiotics to otherwise healthy animals."

In addition to the poll Consumer Union, the public policy arm of Consumer Reports, sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) asking it to tighten labeling standards for meat raised without antibiotics. The letter comes after Consumer Reports "secret shoppers" found meat labels that were misleading and lacked standardization.

"Antibiotic-resistant infections kill more Americans than AIDS," said Slaughter. "That is a frightening figure, and to really get out in front of this problem we must eliminate the use of all classes of antibiotics in farm animals that are important to human health. That's why I will continue to press for passage of PAMTA."

Since 2007, Congresswoman Slaughter has been the author of legislation titled The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA), designed to ensure that we

preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics for the treatment of human disease. The legislation would prevent the overuse of seven classes of antibiotics and has been endorsed by over 350 organizations.

[For a link to the full Consumer Reports findings, click here.](#)

[For more on Slaughter's work to protect public health, click here.](#)